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65. *Trees and Rain.*—The influence of trees upon rains and the general moisture of the atmosphere, which has been so much discussed of late, receives a strong illustration from the island of Santa Cruz, W. I.

A friend who spent the months of February, March and April last upon the island, informs me that, when he was there twenty years ago, the island was a garden of freshness, beauty and fertility. Woods covered the hills, trees were everywhere abundant, and rains were profuse and frequent. The memory of its loveliness called him there at the beginning of the present year, when, to his astonishment, he found about one-third of the island, which is about twenty-five miles long, an utter desert. The forests and trees generally had been cut away, rain-falls had ceased, and a process of desiccation beginning at one end of the land had advanced gradually and irresistibly upon the island, until for seven miles it is dried and desolate as the sea-shore. Houses and beautiful plantations have been abandoned, and the people watch the advance of desolation, unable to arrest it, but knowing, almost to a certainty, the time when their own habitations, their gardens and fresh fields, will become a part of the waste; the whole island seems doomed to become a desert.

The inhabitants believe, and my friend confirms their opinion, that this sad result is due to the destruction of the trees upon the island some years ago. J. S. M.

66. *New Stations.*—*Polanisia graveolens*, Raf.; *Lythrum Salicaria*, L.; *Asclepias verticillata*, L., found abundant along the Hudson R. R. R., at Fort Montgomery Station, a few miles below Garrison's. *Liatris spicata*, Willd., between Fort Montgomery and Garrison's, about opposite Gov. Fish's residence. J. S. M.

July 31.

67. *Note from Prof. Thomas C. Porter.*—If Budd's Lake, Morris Co., N. J., is within the circuit embraced by your BULLETIN, and it may be, being less than fifty miles from New York, I can report as growing there, and can furnish specimens of, *Salix myrtilloides*, *S. candida* and *S. lucida*—also, *Betula pumila*. A number more of interesting plants occur there, and the point is well worth a visit from the members of your Club. It is very easy of access, and there is a good hotel on the border of the Lake. It lies only $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of Stanhope Station on the Morris and Essex R.R. Lake Hopatcong, which is still further east, can boast of possessing, on the sandy margin of its largest island, the rare *Juncus subtilis*, Mchx. (*J. pelocarpus*, var. *subtilis*(?), Engelm.). I collected it there some years ago on the 25th of September, not in fruit.

EASTON, Pa.

68. *Silver-leaf.*—This name we found given in Greene Co., N. Y., to the common Balsam, *Impatiens fulva*. Some one had noticed that when the fresh leaves are immersed in water the underside reflects the light as from a surface of silver-foil. But many other leaves, those of Dogbane for example, exhibit the phenomenon in nearly equal perfection. The surface of these leaves is not wet by the

water, as may be seen by withdrawing them. The reflection, then, is from the surface of water next the leaf. The brilliancy of dew-drops is owing to a like cause. The experiment is a pleasing one. If our explanation is defective, we should be glad to have the deficiencies supplied.

69. *Hypericum Canadense*, L., var. *major*, Gray.—On wet hill-sides in the Town of Windham, Green Co., N. Y., grows a very marked form of this plant, the leaves being frequently $4\frac{1}{2}$ lines in width. The typical form does not occur in that vicinity, though found near the Mountain House. *Carum Carui*, L., grows spontaneously along the roadside in East Windham.

70. Publications received.—1. *Grevillea*, No. 1, with a colored plate, gives much space to American Cryptogams; to the publication here of most of them we have already referred. A new contribution is *Pezizæ Americane*, by M. C. Cooke and C. H. Peck.

2. *Archives of Science*, No. 5, McIndoe's Falls, Vt., contains the commencement of a catalogue of Vermont plants, *Ranunculaceæ* to *Fumariaceæ*. The most curious item, however, belongs to New Hampshire: *Clematis Viorna*, "found abundantly just across the Connecticut river from Brattleboro', on Wantasetiquet Mountain, on a sheltered southern slope, by C. C. Frost." Another article, *Botanical Notes*, by Prof. Ed. T. Nelson, of the Ohio Wesleyan University, on Mistletoe and Trillium, is of interest to botanists.

3. Circular of a *New Botanical Check List*. "It will include the Phænogamous and Aerogenous plants of that portion of North America . . . embraced in Gray's *Manual* and *Canada*." Address, A. H. CURTISS, Liberty, Bedford Co., Va.

4. The Article "*On the Cause of the Deterioration in some of our Native Grape-Vines*," by C. V. Riley, in the September No. of the *American Naturalist*, contains Dr. Engelmann's elaboration of the "*Grape-Vines of the Old United States*." In the August No. is a notice of a wild double-flowered state of *Saxifraga Virginianensis*, Mchx. We have a specimen gathered in Greenburgh, Westchester Co., N.Y., in 1858.

5. *Nature*, July 11, 1872 (No. 141, Vol. 6), contains the memorial of Lyell, Darwin, Bentham, and other eminent scientific men, to Mr. Gladstone, in reference to the disgraceful interference of a Mr. Ayrton with Dr. Joseph Hooker. This Ayrton happens to hold the office of First Commissioner of the Board of Works, and treats his official subordinate Dr. Hooker in a way that threatens to drive him from his most useful position. Mr. Ayrton, in his self-conceit, seems not to be aware that England would be in a sad state of decay if she had not many men better qualified for his office than he is, but if Dr. Hooker should be displaced, there could not be found another to fill the vacancy. "*Nature*" is constantly pressing the union of State and Science, but such experiences as that of Dr. Hooker in England and Mr. Parry in this country are not encouraging.